

VZCZCXRO2584  
PP RUEHDBU RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHROV RUEHSR  
DE RUEHBM #1240 2191330  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 071330Z AUG 06  
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4925  
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 001240

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE DEPT FOR EUR/NCE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/07/2016  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [MOPS](#) [UN](#) [IS](#) [LE](#) [RO](#)  
SUBJECT: ROMANIA ENCOURAGED BY DRAFT UNSCR ON LEBANON

REF: A. A) STATE 128442

[1](#)B. B) BUCHAREST 1219

Classified By: A/DCM RODGER GARNER FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) & (D)

[1](#)1. (C) Ambassador, in separate August 6 conversations, discussed the draft UN Security Council resolution on the situation in Lebanon with Romanian FM Razvan Mihai Ungurianu and Presidential Senior Advisor Claudiu Saftoiu. In response to a request from the Ambassador for a statement of support from Romanian authorities, Ungurianu said unequivocally that "we will support you on this." Saftoiu said that he would communicate the text of the draft resolution and the Ambassador's request immediately to President Basescu.

[1](#)2. (C) The Prime Minister's chief of staff, Mihnea Constantinescu, told PolChief on August 7 that Romania would issue a statement of support for the draft UNSC resolution on Lebanon, as it was "important to prevent a negative coalition from forming against the UNSCR, especially since Lebanon and Syria have been so vocal in opposing it." He said he was surprised Lebanon and Syria did not readily accept the resolution, but instead appeared to take their talking points directly from Iran. Constantinescu said Romania was encouraged by the cooperation between the U.S. and France on the resolution. He said that cooperation was important for Romania's internal debate as to what extent it can be part of a possible UNSCR mandated international stabilization force. Constantinescu noted the Romanian media positively promoted the resolution, helping to "clarify the internal debate."

[1](#)3. (C) However, Constantinescu brushed off Defense Minister Atanasiu's statements that Romania would contribute troops to an international stabilization force should there be a UN mandate and funding (reftel B) as "theoretical". He said the statement was a "sign of openness to participating" but had "no operational consequence." He said Romania would focus on "respecting its commitments" and mentioned it was "already settled that Romania would stay engaged in fulfilling commitments in other regions such as Iraq and Afghanistan." As for future contributions of troops to peacekeeping operations, he said it was "difficult to discern now." (Note: this tracks with similar comments made by Saftoiu to poloffs in an August 4 meeting, where the Presidential Senior Advisor noted that it would be difficult to know whether Romania would contribute troops to an international stabilization force due to the conflict within the coalition government.) As to whether contributing troops would become a domestic political issue, Constantinescu said he did "not believe the issue would be high up on the internal debate." He added that the Romanian media was much more balanced towards Israel than the French media. He also said Romania takes the same approach as the U.S. in that the original causes of this conflict must be addressed in order to secure Lebanon's internal stability by removing the external

pressures aiming at its continued destabilization. He also cited close contact with the Israeli Embassy.

¶4. (C) Comment: The Prime Minister's PNL party is unlikely to attempt to play domestic politics over whether Romania can afford to contribute troops to a possible international stabilization force for Lebanon. Despite the presidency's cautiousness due to the recent public dispute with the Prime Minister's party over Romania's continued deployment of troops to Iraq, there will likely be broad-based support for Romanian participation in Lebanon, with the major limiting factor being the availability of funding. In any case, such a deployment would unlikely entail more than 400 troops.  
Taplin